09/832,925

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TO

Name: Patricia Small
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Date: September 2, 2004
Subject: U.S. Application No. 09/832,929

FROM

Name: Charles E. Van Horn
Phone No.: 202-408-4072
Fax # Verified by: Yuko Soneoka
 # Pages (incl. this): 1
Our File No.: 6832.0013

Confirmation Copy to Follow: N

Message:

Dear Patricia:

Please leave the specification "as is."

Regards,

Charles E. Van Horn

Charles E. Van Horn

contains a *PRB1 S. cerevisiae* promoter (PRB1p), a Fusion leader sequence (FL), DNA encoding HA (rHA) and an *ADH1 S. cerevisiae* terminator sequence. The sequence of the fusion leader sequence consists of the first 19 amino acids of the signal peptide of human serum albumin (SEQ ID NO:29) and the last five amino acids of the mating factor alpha 1 promoter (SLDKR, see EP-A-387 319 which is hereby incorporated by reference in its entirety.

The plasmids, pPPC0005, pScCHSA, pScNHSA, and pC4:HSA were deposited on April 11, 2001 at the American Type Culture Collection, 10801 University Boulevard, Manassas, Virginia 20110-2209 and given accession numbers ATCC _____, _____, _____, and _____, respectively. Another vector useful for expressing an albumin fusion protein in yeast the pSAC35 vector which is described in Sleep *et al.*, BioTechnology 8:42 (1990) which is hereby incorporated by reference in its entirety.

A variety of methods have been developed to operably link DNA to vectors via complementary cohesive termini. For instance, complementary homopolymer tracts can be added to the DNA segment to be inserted to the vector DNA. The vector and DNA segment are then joined by hydrogen bonding between the complementary homopolymeric tails to form recombinant DNA molecules.

Synthetic linkers containing one or more restriction sites provide an alternative method of joining the DNA segment to vectors. The DNA segment, generated by endonuclease restriction digestion, is treated with bacteriophage T4 DNA polymerase or E. coli DNA polymerase I, enzymes that remove protruding, _-single-stranded termini with their 3' 5'-exonucleolytic activities, and fill in recessed 3'-ends with their polymerizing activities.

The combination of these activities therefore generates blunt-ended DNA segments. The blunt-ended segments are then incubated with a large molar excess of linker molecules in the presence of an enzyme that is able to catalyze the ligation of blunt-ended DNA molecules, such as bacteriophage T4 DNA ligase. Thus, the products of the reaction are DNA segments carrying polymeric linker sequences at their ends. These DNA segments are then cleaved with the appropriate restriction enzyme and ligated to an expression vector that has been cleaved with an enzyme that produces termini compatible with those of the DNA segment.

Synthetic linkers containing a variety of restriction endonuclease sites are commercially available from a number of sources including International Biotechnologies Inc, New Haven, CT, USA.

A desirable way to modify the DNA in accordance with the invention, if, for example, HA variants are to be prepared, is to use the polymerase chain reaction as disclosed by Saiki *et al.* (1988) *Science* 239, 487-491. In this method the DNA to be